

## ELMER and MARILYN VERIGIN 2024 FAMILY CHRISTMAS REUNION

This 2024 year, the entire family made special sacrifices to provide 100% attendance for our family Christmas. The exception were three (3) partners as will be identified in this article.



The venue chosen was the newly developed Confluence, an environmentally and conscientiously designed building and developed by the Castlegar Chamber of Commerce. Of course there was the promotional influence by Tamara Verigin-Burk, the CEO for the Chamber.

It was the best available venue for our family that numbers 39 when the partners are included. The family in the above photo was taken at the height of the celebration.

This was the banquet room set out and decorated

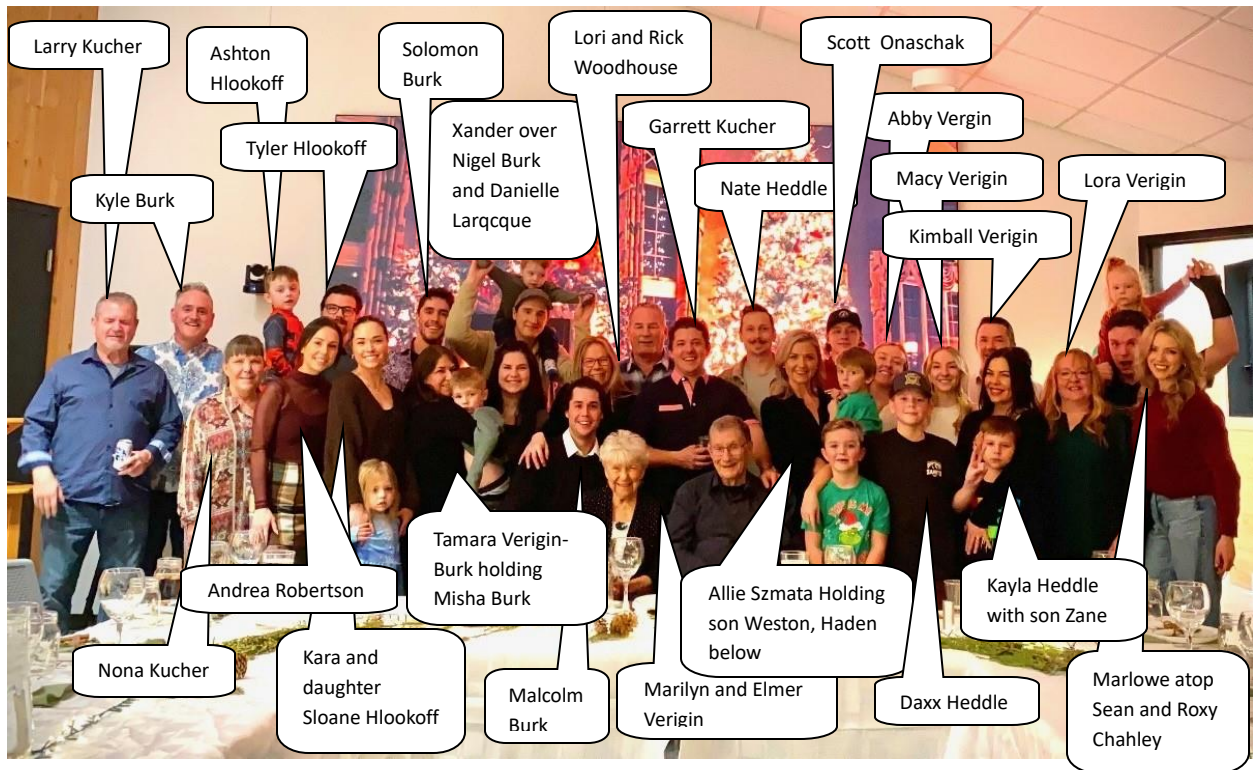


by family members. Kara and Abby are inspecting the gift cache.

The natural table decor on the left, was created by Abby and her sister Macy Verigin. Nothing but

the best for the family!





This is the family as identified in the above photo.

The family units are represented as follows:

#### **A) The Great, grandparents Marilyn (nee Verishine) and Elmer Verigin**



This couple celebrated their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on December 23, 2024.

They are still in good health despite the usual aging health risks that beseech seniors. They are both aged 84 and retired. Elmer as a Professional Engineer, General Contractor and Developer. Marilyn as School Teacher, Office Secretary and Courier.

They live comfortably in an entry level, seniors development created in Castlegar, B.C., by the Kootenay Columbia Seniors Housing Cooperative in which they served with Grandview Housing completed in 2009.

They were left ecstatic by the complete family attendance.

#### **B) The eldest daughter Nona was born in 1962**

Left to right stand, Allie Szmata, Weston, Haden, Garrett, Daxx, Nate, Zane and Kayla. Nona lives in Castlegar and Larry Kucher resides in Rivervale. B.C. Nona holds a Diploma in Municipal Management and is Lead Change Management at Teck Resources and a Senior Certified Executive Coach.





She serves as Rental Coordinator at Whatshan Lake Retreat. Larry is a retired Insurance Corporation of BC Executive.

**1) Kayla (nee MacKinnon) Heddle was born in 1987**



Kayla graduated with a Medical Services Degree and operated a Catering Service, Roasted Chickpea. They recently moved to Kelowna, She is considering options while working as a Server.

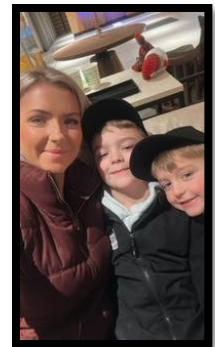
Nate is a Journeyman Electrician employed by the Kelowna School District. He volunteers with the Fire Department and has applied to be a professional Fire Fighter. He is a distance Runner.

Daxx participates in Hockey and Baseball as his extracurriculars. Zane is involved in Parkour.

**2) Allie (nee Kucher) Szmata was born in 1991**

Allie is educated as a Nursing Unit Clerk, but her passion is baking. She has set up a Bakery at Grimshaw, Ab., and with her staff of 7 operates a successful business, Northern Dough.

Her 2 sons, Weston and Haden are already in Hockey and other sports.



**3) Garrett Kucher was born in 1992**



Garrett has excelled in Hockey, Baseball and Golf.

He developed a professional career in Golf and has played in Canada and internationally in USA, Spain and other counties.

He is now considering a regular career while completing the renovation of a home for himself.

His friend, Tori Crane was unable to attend.

**B) Lori (nee Verigin) Woodhouse was born in 1963**

Left to Right are Sean Chahley holding daughter Marlowe, alongside sister Kara and husband Tyler Hlookoff with daughter Sloane in front, Rick Woodhouse with grandson Ashton Hlookoff in front, Lori and Roxy Chahley.

Rick has a degree as BScT in Computer Technology. He is retired as Manager Trail Information Systems & JE Global at Teck Resources.

Lori has a BGS now retired as Executive Assistant to the CEO of Kootenay Savings Credit Union.



**1) Sean Chahley born in 1987**



Sean has a BBA and is currently the General Manager of Wesco, an Electrical Materials Wholesale in Kelowna.

Roxy (nee Fenton) is employed as a professional Hairstylist.

Marlowe is their only daughter.

**2) Kara (nee Chahley) Hlookoff born in 1989**

Kara has a BKin., and BEd., and teaches within the Castlegar School District. Tyler has an AScT in Computer Science, employed at Fortis BC in Trail, as a Technical Analyst 4.

Sloane and Ashton are their daughter and son.



**C) Tamara (nee Verigin) Verigin-Burk was born in 1965**



Left to right are Amanda Bulmer holding Misha, Malcolm, Kyle, Tamara Verigin-Burk, Solomon, Andrea Robertson, Nigel holding Xander, Danielle Larocque.

Tamara has a MA in Leadership with a current position as CEO of the Castlegar Chamber of Commerce and Whatshan Lake Retreat. Kyle continues to educate himself and currently Store Manager at Trowalex in Castlegar.



### 1. Nigel Burk was born in 1994

Nigel completing his BA in General Studies with his eyes set on a BEd. He is currently employed as an Operator at Teck in Trail.

Danielle Larocque has a Liberal Arts Diploma in Writing Studies a BA in English and a MEd and currently employed as an Instructor in the Department of Academic Upgrading and Development at Selkirk College as well as a Pregnancy Outreach Coordinator in Trail. They have 2 sons, Xander and Misha and live in Montrose, B.C.

### 2. Malcolm Burk was born in 1996

Malcolm has been pursuing university education in various subjects. He is currently in the Power and Process Engineering Diploma Program at BCIT to qualify for a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steam Ticket and certified for 4<sup>th</sup> Class Steam Ticket exams.

Amanda Bulmer (unable to attend) has a master's in environmental Assessment, a Bachelor's in Geography. She is employed with Firelight Group as a Research Analyst. She speaks fluent, English, French, Finnish and is somewhat knowledgeable in Spanish and German.



### 3. Solomon Burk was born in 1998



Solmon is a High School graduate that included Hockey. His interest was body fitness and now has his Own business as Train With Solly. (@trainwithsolly).

He now has a base in Kelowna but has a wide area of clientele.

His partner Andrea Robertson works with Solly in the Fitness operation.

**D) Kimball Verigin was born in 1971**



Left to right are Scott Onaschak, Abby, Macy, Lora (nee Startup) and Kimball.

Kimball has degrees in B.H.K., and B.Ed. He is employed with Selkirk College as Head – Athletics, Recreation and Student Life.

Lora continues to educate herself and currently employed as an Administrator at Kootenay Savings Credit Union in Trail, B.C.

**1) Abby Verigin born 1997**

Abby Verigin is a C-IAYT Yoga Therapist and Fitness Coach who has a Bachelors of PE & Coaching. Abby has her own business as a Yoga Therapist and Group Fitness Coach, throughout the West Kootenay. She may be reached at (@howtoflourishwellness).

Scott Onaschak has a diploma in Radio Arts and Broadcasting and a bachelor's in history. He is currently pursuing placement after a time with Coop Radio in Nelson.



**2) Macy Verigin born 2002**



Macy has a Diploma in Kinesiology from OC and will be continuing her education to achieve a degree in Kinesiology or similar field. She recently moved on from her position at the Vancouver Golf Club and currently looking at her next interest.

Sy Montana Lovan unable to attend as he was with his maternal family.

Sy has an English degree from SFU and is currently employed at the Vancouver Golf Club. He continues his Professional Golf career in Thailand and Canada.

**E) First Cousins**





Here they all are ten (10) cousins, loving and happy doing that.

Left to right are Garrett Kucher, Kara Hlookoff hugging Kayla Heddle, Solomon Burk, Malcolm Burk, Abby Verigin in front of Sean Chahley, Nigel Burk with his arm around Macy Verigin who stands by Allie Szmata.

## F) Second Cousins

Another generation that follows, second cousins.

Left to right are Ashton Hlookoff, Sloane Hlookoff, Marlowe Chahley, Zane Heddle, Misha Burk standing in front of Haden Szmata, Daxx Heddle and Weston Szmata. Missing from photo is Xander Burk. (He was hiding).



## G) The Banquet



## H) Visiting with relatives



Yes, I remember when the Rossland Warriors played the Trail Smoke Eaters. That was hockey! They had to scrape up the teeth off the ice, then.



We tried convincing Matrushka to help us cleanup, but we had to do it ourselves



I know darn well that someone is spiking my drinks, but I really don't care today.



Yes, I heard that Justin was skiing at Red Mountain as well!

Do you have any Xmas treats to haul away?



Of course I'm Deadpool, who did you think I was?



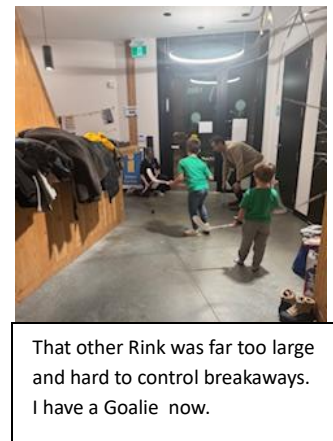
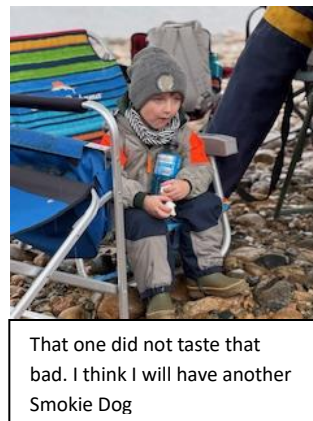
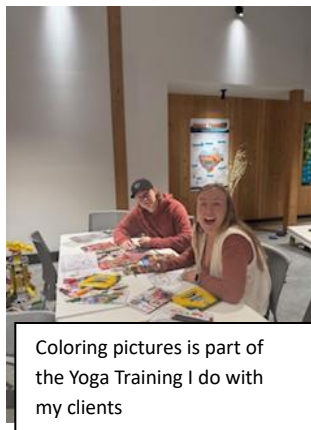
You are handsome enough to take me on a date.

Did anyone see my Tucker?



You are as good-looking as my wife who spells your name with an I in your name







There are Vocalists in the Family (Nate's grandfather was Buddy Marr

Just cousins time together is where it's at



This is my youngest! Isn't she pretty?

Daxx, I used to intimidate Goalies, so be aware that it is bullshit.



There are more toys over there, Misha, I will get them.



I did these things before, no problem

Yes Weston, these two Babas know everything



So, when does one count 15-3 in cribbage? That is a new one on me.



Hold still Misha. One, two, three.....I hope you are the same length on both sides. This is the way my great grand uncle Misha Morozoff measured me.



Kara, I heard you played hockey but did you know my grandfather, Normie Leonardon, played with the World Champion 1961 Trail Smoke Eaters?



We would make a wonderful couple but we are cousins after all.



You look as pretty as my wife, you know!

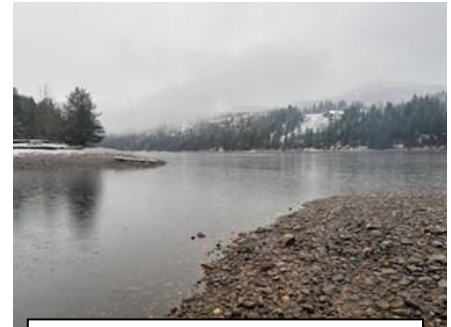
## I) 2024 Boxing Day at Waterloo Eddy



I can visualize the Minto Ferry going up to the Arrow Lakes



Who said it might rain or snow?



Waterloo Eddy just across from Twin Rivers Subdivision



It is getting crowded up there.



Not much to eat again, except some Oysters and other stuff



What? There is only 2 kinds of mustard?



## J) Great Gramps Thoughts After a Great Family Event

I reminisce to the time when I was a teenager and wondered how my life would unfold. It was impossible to imagine this would come to unfold as it has.

If there ever was a Christmas Gift that could be designed as well as this Verigin Family Reunion, I am sure just about every family in the world would be requesting the same.

Thank you so much family, you have come through with flying colors.

My message to my family:

***“You can aspire to your dreams but there is effort required to achieve them. Not all of us can be “Rocket Scientists” but the objective to strive and do the best that we can is possible and a noble pursuit.”***

## K) Great Granny has comments

Dear Family:

It warmed my heart to have everyone together. We shared a need to be with each other. A few years ago, when we were in Whatshan, I requested that each of us offer a word or phrase that described a feeling or action promoting PEACE. The result was the formation of the TREE of PEACE.

***Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.***

Your mother, grandmother and great grandmother,

***Marilyn***

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